

TOWN NAME	BETHEL
FORM OF GOVT	Town Meeting
LEGISLATIVE BODY	First Selectman (FS) and Board of Selectmen (BOS)
SCOPE OF AUTHORITY	First Selectman (FS) and Board of Selectmen
OPERATIONAL LEADER	First Selectman
POPULATION	20,000

### **SUMMARY COMMENTARY**

#### **1. Promoting Efficiency**

##### **a) How does the Town's Legislative structure promote legislative efficiency?**

The FS works closely with the BOS. There is no TA. The BOS takes input from the FS and during town meetings with the citizenry.

##### **b) How does the Town's Operational structure promote operational efficiency?**

The FS is also the de facto TA. The current set-up is not particularly efficient and would be better served with a TA and FS, each focusing respectively on operations and town leadership.

## **2. Accountability**

### **a. How does the Town's Legislative structure promote accountability?**

The BOS works closely with the FS. There are three BOS. The BOS conducts town meetings to gather public input.

### **b. How does the Town's Operational structure promote accountability?**

There is no TA. The current structure does not promote accountability as the FS wears both operational and legislative hats. The FS is in favor of hiring a full-time TA.

## **3. Citizen Participation**

### **a. How does the Town's Legislative structure promote citizen participation?**

Citizen participation is weak in Bethel and is not active given the current organization. This is an issue in most towns with a town meeting or RTM form of government.

### **b. How does the Town's Operational structure promote citizen participation?**

As noted above.

## **4. Responsiveness to Local Needs**

### **a. How does the Town's Legislative structure foster responsiveness to local needs?**

The BOS listens to the citizenry during town meetings and referendums. The FS works closely with the BOS as well to ensure that the voice of the residents is heard.

### **b. How does the Town's Operational structure foster responsiveness to local needs?**

The FS is also the operational head and works with the BOS to help ensure that the needs of the residents are met on an operational level. The FS also adheres to an open-door policy, allowing residents to directly voice their concerns.